REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner is requiring restriction between the following groups:

> Group I (claims 23-31, 43, and 44): Drawn to a method of producing a synthetic protein;
> Group II (claims 32-40): Drawn to a composition comprising a synthetic protein; and
> Group III (claims 41 and 42): Drawn to a method for treating or preventing an HPV-associated disease by administering a synthetic protein.

If Group I is elected, Applicants must elect either a protein from a pathogen or a protein from a tumor. If Group II is elected, Applicants must elect (a) one of SEQ ID NO: 1-6 and (b) either a protein from a pathogen or a protein from a tumor. Additionally, if Group III is elected, Applicants must elect either a protein from a pathogen or a protein from a tumor. The Examiner states that the inventions do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. See Office Action pages 2-3.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group II (claims 32-40), drawn to a composition comprising a synthetic protein. Applicants further elect (a) SEQ ID NO: 1 (the sequence of HPV 16 E7 protein) and a (b) protein from a tumor.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement. A requirement for restriction is only proper when a serious burden is placed on the Examiner. Applicants submit that a search and examination of all claims may be made without imposing a serious burden on the Examiner. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, conducting a search on all sequences would not unduly burden the Examiner because a search of one sequence would necessarily include a search of the others. The claimed sequences all relate to similar subject matter---PNA probes capable of specifically binding to HPV DNA---and thus would not require a search of different classes/subclasses or different electronic databases. In addition, the synthetic protein as identified by the Examiner as belonging to Group II is prepared using a method as identified by Group I. Group III contains claims directed to the therapeutic use of the synthetic protein of Group II. It is also clear that because the sequences are related, different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. §101 and/or 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph are unlikely to arise.

Accordingly, the restriction requirement will serve no purpose other than to

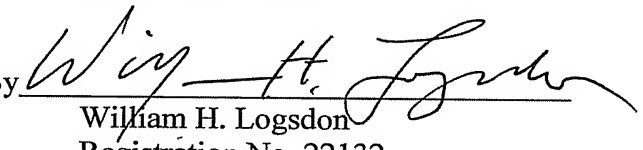
unfairly and improperly require Applicants to pay duplicative PTO fees to obtain patent protection for their invention.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications on any of the non-elected groups or species as identified in the Office Action.

Examination of all pending claims and sequences is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

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